

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. - 19. (cancelled)
20. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting growth of a tumor comprising increasing apoptosis in tumor cells selected from the group consisting of leukemic cells, prostate cancer cells, pancreatic cancer cells, or head and neck squamous carcinoma cells, breast carcinoma cells, myeloid leukemic cells, and colon carcinoma cells, which method comprises contacting the tumor cells with
  - (a) an amount of paclitaxel, and
  - (b) an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, ~~thereby increasing apoptosis in the tumor cells,~~wherein the amount of (a) and the amount of (b) is in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition death rate of the tumor cells, and wherein the resulting apoptosis is greater than the apoptosis caused by contacting the tumor cells with either paclitaxel alone or C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide alone, thereby inhibiting growth of the tumor.
21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor ~~cells are~~ is first contacted with paclitaxel and subsequently contacted with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide.
22. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor ~~cells are~~ is present in a subject.
23. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery, and the contacting with

C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery, alcohol-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel and with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intralymphatic, intramuscular, intralesional, parenteral, epidural, subcutaneous, pleural, topical, oral, nasal, anal, ocular and otic.
25. (currently amended) A method of decreasing the size of a tumor, comprising tumor cells, wherein the tumor cells are ~~wherein the tumor comprises tumor cells selected from the group consisting of leukemia cells, prostate cancer cells, pancreatic cancer cells, or head and neck squamous cell carcinoma cells, breast carcinoma cells, myeloid leukemia cells, and colon carcinoma cells,~~ which method comprises contacting the tumor with
  - (a) an amount of paclitaxel, and
  - (b) an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, ~~thereby decreasing the size of the tumor,~~wherein the amount of (a) and the amount of (b) in combination are ~~is~~ effective to induce apoptosis ~~a 50% death rate of the tumor cells, and wherein the resulting decrease in size of the tumor is greater than the decrease in size caused by contacting the tumor with either paclitaxel alone or C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide alone,~~ thereby decreasing the size of the tumor.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the tumor is first contacted with paclitaxel and subsequently contacted with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide.
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the tumor is present in a subject.
28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the

contacting with paclitaxel is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery, and the contacting with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery, alcohol-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel and with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intralymphatic, intramuscular, intralesional, parenteral, epidural, subcutaneous, pleural, topical, oral, nasal, anal, ocular and otic.
30. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising paclitaxel, C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition ~~inhibit growth of a tumor composition causes apoptosis in a cell selected from the group consisting of a~~ leukemic cell, a prostate cancer cell, a pancreatic cancer cell, and a head and neck squamous carcinoma cell, a breast carcinoma cell, a myeloid leukemia cell, and a colon carcinoma cell.
31. (currently amended) A method for treating a subject afflicted with ~~cancer selected from the group consisting of leukemia, prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, and or~~ head and neck squamous cell cancer, ~~breast cancer, myeloid leukemia, and colon cancer,~~ which method comprises administering to the subject an amount of paclitaxel and an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition death rate of the cells of the cancer cells, thereby treating the cancer.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein paclitaxel is first administered and C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is subsequently

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administered to the subject.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is first administered and paclitaxel is subsequently administered to the subject.

34. - 41. (canceled)